

To: Maine State Legislature
Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs
c/o Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

From: Arthur Kesaris, III
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Subject: Support for L.D.1902, An Act to Support Nonprofit Organizations by Authorizing the Operation of Electronic Lucky Seven Devices and Similar Sealed Ticket Games

Chairman Hickman, Chairwoman Supica, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, thank you for the opportunity to write the committee in support of L.D. 1902, which would modernize charitable gaming on our state. As the operator of Mainely Bingo, headquartered in Auburn, I have had the privilege to provide charitable gaming products and services to Maine charities for 45 years. During this time, I have seen countless veteran organizations, fraternal groups, and local charities benefit from the camaraderie that charitable gaming fosters and the fundraising it provides for community causes.

I've watched with concern in recent years as our state has fallen behind other states in updating our charitable gaming framework. The veteran halls and community groups I partner with are finding it increasingly difficult to keep their doors open and maintain the programs that serve and are vital to our neighbors.

To better support our veterans and charities, we must give them the tools they need to operate more efficiently and generate sustainable revenue. LD 1902 authorizes electronic Lucky 7 games (sealed ticket games), for charitable organizations, providing them with an accessible, new fundraising method that replicates the traditional form of Lucky 7 games. This bill would directly increase their revenue and capacity to serve Maine communities, which is why the bill is so important for the future of Maine's non-profits.

What I appreciate most about electronic Lucky 7 games is that they preserve everything our communities value about the traditional paper games. It's the same low stakes, the same charitable mission, and the same local focus, but with the added benefit of bringing

operational improvements that matter for the future stability of the organizations and the communities they serve.

The digital format means better tracking, better regulation, and improved revenue potential for the organizations that depend on this funding. L.D.1902 gives Maine's charitable groups a fighting chance to sustain their vital community work. Experience from other states shows this modernization complements, rather than competes with, existing gaming offerings, including commercial gaming operations.

To be clear, while electronic Lucky 7 games are the natural next step for offering a modern version, paper Lucky 7 games are still a very important part of the playing experience, and we envision electronic Lucky 7 games being offered to complement, not replace, paper games. It is important to strike a balance, and we do not want to see paper games go away.

I urge you to support L.D.1902 and help strengthen our charitable organizations so they can continue giving back to Maine communities for decades to come. Thank you for your consideration.